

March 31, 2004

MPR4-04

Maryland Farmers Anticipate Spring Planting

Maryland: As spring planting season draws near, farmers are making final plans for the 2004 crop year. As of March 1, they indicate that they will plant 490,000 acres of **corn**, up 10,000 acres from last year, and close to the five-year average of 486,000 acres. **Soybean** acreage is expected to increase from 435,000 acres in 2003 to 475,000 acres in 2004. Acreage planted to soybeans was particularly low last year, due to excessive rain. **Sorghum** planting intentions are down 1,000 acres from last year, and are forecast at 5,000 acres.

Winter wheat plantings are now forecast at 160,000 acres, down 3 percent from the December seeding forecast and down 3 percent from last year. **Barley** planted acreage is estimated at 37,000 acres, down from 45,000 acres planted in 2003.

All **hay** harvested acres are currently forecast at 200,000, up 2.5 percent from last year's final estimate of 195,000 acres. Maryland **tobacco** acreage continues to decline, and is forecast at 1,000 acres.

United States: **Corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 79.0 million acres, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt as growers are hoping to take advantage of higher corn prices. However, most States in the Southeast and southern Great Plains are intending to decrease their corn plantings as producers are switching to soybeans and cotton due to more favorable prices relative to corn.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 75.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record and a rebound from the three year decline in acreage. Growers in all States, except South Dakota and Wisconsin, intend to plant more than or at least as many acres of soybeans as last year. Current high prices are encouraging many producers to plant more soybeans, with the largest acreage increases expected in North Dakota, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres in 2004, down 4 percent from 2003. **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres are White Winter. The 2004 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 13.3 million, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.76 million acres, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Published by

The Maryland Agriculture Statistics Service

50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 841-5740 Fax (410) 841-5755

a cooperative service of

The Maryland Department of Agriculture, the National Agricultural Statistics Service
and the University of Maryland Extension system

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2003 AND 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	480	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	410	----	123	----	50,430	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	16	----	1,040	----
Soybeans	BU	435	475	430	----	37	----	15,910	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	6	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	3	----	65	----	195	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	3	----	10	----	30	----
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	----	37	----	5,365	----
Barley	BU	45	37	38	----	57	----	2,166	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	195	200	2.8	----	539	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	45	----	3.3	----	149	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	----	2.6	----	390	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.5	1.0	1,450	----	2,175	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	37,000	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	----	4.6	----	240	----	1,104	----
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,736	79,004	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	71,139	----	142	----	10,114	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,528	----	16	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	73,404	75,411	72,321	----	33	----	2,418	----
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,420	8,600	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,798	----	52.7	----	411	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	343	----	10.4	----	4	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,945	43,372	36,541	----	47	----	1,707	----
Barley	BU	5,299	4,683	4,688	----	59	----	276	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	63,342	63,731	2.48	----	157	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,578	----	3.24	----	76	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,764	----	2.03	----	81	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	416.2	414.6	1,997	----	831	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,352	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	64.2	----	59.3	----	324	----	19	----

¹ Acres planted is for all purposes.